

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action dated November 7, 2002. The present amendment to the specification addresses an objection made in the Action, but clearly raises no new issues for the Examiner's consideration, and is consequently in compliance with Rule 116.

Applicants understand that Figure 12 is acceptable to the Examiner, and do not provide a drawing correction in response to the Action. If this understanding is incorrect, a drawing correction will be provided upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 10, and 12 are pending. The Examiner rejected all of the claims other than claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the previously cited Chen and patent and newly cited U.S. Patent No. 4,834,476 ("Benton") and U.S. Patent No. 5,473,447 ("Molteni"). The Examiner also rejected claim 5 as being unpatentable over Chen, Benton, Molteni, and the previously cited Brooks patent. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an object beam optical system that performs events in a certain order, and no such optical system is disclosed in the prior art. More importantly, there is no disclosure in the prior art of a system that is at all capable of performing the events in the order set forth in the claims. To be more particular, the object beam optical system is claimed as forming a superposed image of a plurality of images (the superposed image being designated by numeral 40 in the present application). After the superposed image is formed, the images in the superposed image are condensed to separately project them in a parallax direction.

In contrast, while the Examiner comments that the Chen patent teaches an apparatus that can perform the individual features, in fact Chen makes no mention of: 1) superposing images that have been previously displayed on a spatial light modulation means as a single image, and thereafter, 2) condensing the images. In other words, Chen and the other prior art references fail to provide an object beam optical system that forms a superposed image of a plurality of images as an intermediate step, after displaying the images on a spatial light modulation means and before condensing the images onto a hologram recording medium. By performing the above-discussed intermediate superposing step by an object beam optical system

capable of doing so, the present invention accomplishes the feat of speeding up the processing time by avoiding the problems of wait situations during vibration attenuation.

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). Since the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed apparatus, capable of forming a superposed image of a plurality of images as an intermediate step, after displaying the images on a spatial light modulation means and before condensing the images onto a hologram recording medium, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: February 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4, line 19 with the following new paragraph:

-- Figs. 6A to 6C are a partial diagrammatic view showing an optical path in the superposed projection optical system. --



02/10/03

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Application No.: 09/875,021

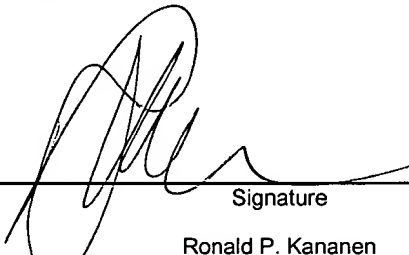
Attorney Docket No.: SON-2139

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